

Message Text

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SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS

REF : PAO LETTER NO.12

1. ATMOSPHERICS:

-- VISIT BY COMMANDER OF U.S. SEVENTH FLEET, DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI AND NEW 60-EPIISODE TELEVISION SERIES ON EVILS OF CHINESE COMMUNISM WERE MAJOR ITEMS OF INTEREST IN TAIWAN DURING PAST WEEK.

-- FOUR-DAY VISIT OF ADMIRAL THOMAS HAYWARD ABOARD SEVENTH FLEET FLAGSHIP OKLAHOMA CITY RECEIVED HEAVY, STRAIGHT COVERAGE BY TAIWAN MEDIA WITH MAIN EMPHASIS ON PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO'S FLAGSHIP VISIT AND HAYWARD'S MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT YEN AND OTHER OFFICIALS. SEVENTH FLEET BAND TAPED TAIWAN TELEVISION (TTV) PROGRAM TO BE SHOWN DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS AND LARGE CROWDS (ESTIMATED AT 15,000) WENT ABOARD THE FLAGSHIP AT KEELUNG DURING TWO DAYS OF PUBLIC VISITATION.

-- MAJOR TAIPEI NEWSPAPERS STOPPED PRESSES TO GIVE FRONTPAGE
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COVERAGE TO DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI AND CONTINUED REPORT

FOLLOW-UP REACTIONS, ANALYSES AND SPECULATION BY FOREIGN AND LOCAL SPECIALISTS. EDITORIALS IN MAJOR PAPERS INCLUDING LARGEST-CIRCULATION UNITED DAILY NEWS (380,000), THE CHINA TIMES (350,000) AND KMT'S OFFICIAL CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (270,000) MOSTLY PREDICTED CHAOS AND SHARPENED FACTIONAL MAINLAND STRUGGLE FOLLOWING DEATH. HOWEVER, UNITED DAILY NEWS SAW NOTHING DRASTIC HAPPENING AS LONG AS MAO TSE-TUNG REMAINS ALIVE, PREDICTED TENG HSIAO-PING COULD NEVER MATCH CHOU'S PERFORMANCES AND FORESAW NO RECONCILIATION BETWEEN PEKING AND MOSCOW RESULTING FROM CHOU'S DEATH. MAJOR PAPERS QUOTED KMT OVERSEAS AFFAIRS DIRECTOR CHEN YU-CHING AS TELLING KMT MEETING IMPACT OF CHOU'S DEATH WILL BE LONG-RANGE, SECTIONALISM WILL RESULT FROM FACTIONAL STRUGGLES, CHOU'S DEATH NULLIFIED PRC INTRIGUES TO STIR UP TROUBLE BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW AND PRC EFFORTS TO DAMAGE U.S.-ROC RELATIONS, AND RENEWED COLD WAR LOOMS BETWEEN FREE AND COMMUNIST WORLDS.

-- GREAT DEAL OF FAVORABLE EDITORIAL COMMENT GREETED INAUGURATION OF A NEW 60-EPIISODE TELEVISION SERIES ON THE EVILS OF CHINESE COMMUNIST RULE CALLED "COLD FRONT" APPEARING NIGHTLY ON ALL THREE NETWORKS. UNITED DAILY NEWS NOTED SERIES, PRODUCED BY CHINA MOTION PICTURE CORPORATION, MARKS SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE OF GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA POLICY FROM "SEPARATION AND DECONTAMINATION" TO "IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION." PAPER ADDED TIME IS OPPORTUNE FOR GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE ITS PUBLICITY AND EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS REGARDING COMMUNIST CHINA, PARTICULARLY FOR YOUNG STUDENTS IN TAIWAN WHO SHOULD HAVE ABILITY JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES REGARDING COMMUNIST THEORY AND PRACTICES. AN AMERICAN TEACHER AT NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY, MISS MARGARET SELLS, VOLUNTEERED IN LETTER TO EDITOR OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA POST TO PREPARE ENGLISH SUBTITLES SO THAT FOREIGN VIEWERS COULD FOLLOW SERIES AND HER OFFER REPORTEDLY QUICKLY ACCEPTED.

2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

-- THROUGH EFFORTS FULBRIGHT EXCHANGE PROFESSOR ROBERT SCHMIDT, WHO COMMITTED TO IDEA OF TESL THROUGH DRAMA, THORNTON WILDER'S "OUR TOWN" PERFORMED ON STAGE AT UNCLASSIFIED

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TAINAN'S CHENG KUNG UNIVERSITY, THUS BECOMING FIRST WESTERN PLAY EVER PRESENTED AT THIS 6000-STUDENT UNIVERSITY IN SOUTHERN TAIWAN. ENTIRE PRODUCTION WAS A ONE-MAN EFFORT BY SCHMIDT WHO HAD TO CONVINCE AUTHORITIES IN BASICALLY CONSERVATIVE INSTITUTION TO STAGE PLAY IN FIRST PLACE. SCHMIDT EVEN HAD TO USE HIS OWN LIVING ROOM FOR REHEARSALS AS AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT MAKE ANY EXTRA ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR PURPOSE.

PRESENT AT STANDING-ROOM-ONLY OPENING NIGHT WAS UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT WHO PAID ACTORS UNUSUAL COMPLIMENT OF REMAINING UNTIL END OF THE PERFORMANCE, FOR FIRST TIME IN HIS TENURE. HWU HAN-CHIEH, CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT, A 1974 IV GRANTEE, WAS LAVISH IN HIS PRAISE AND PROMISED FULL SUPPORT FOR NEXT STUDENT PRODUCTION WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE ANOTHER AMERICAN DRAMA, "PICNIC." CHAIRMAN ALSO INDICATED HE MIGHT NOW SUPPORT SCHMIDT IDEA OF ESTABLISHING YEAR-ROUND DRAMA CLUB WITH ITS OWN FACILITIES AT UNIVERSITY.

MANY OF SCHMIDT'S IDEAS AND APPROACHES TAKEN FROM ARTICLES ON TEACHING ENGLISH THROUGH DRAMA PARTICULARLY THOSE WRITTEN BY RICHARD VIA WHICH APPEARED IN USIA'S ENGLISH TEACHING FORUM.

-- HIGHLY EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM OF MODERN DANCE AND MUSIC IMPROVISATION HELD IN TAIPEI'S LINCOLN CENTER JANUARY 9 PROVED POPULAR AS WELL AS CRITICAL SUCCESS. PROGRAM FEATURED NOTED CHINESE DANCER AND FORMER MARTHA GRAHAM STUDENT LIN HUAI-MIN, AMERICAN MODERN MUSICIAN MICHAEL RANTA, JAPANESE VIOLINIST TAKEHISA KOSUGI AND ENVIRONMENTAL SLIDES BY LOCAL AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER BRANT BUBLITZ WHO COMBINED 45-MINUTE PERFORMANCE WITH 45-MINUTE COMMENTARY WITH PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING AND CREATING APPETITE FOR THIS HEAVILY AMERICAN-INFLUENCED, INNOVATIVE AND MOD ART MODE. POST ARRANGED SPECIAL AFTERNOON REHEARSAL SESSION FOR SELECTED ART CRITICS, COMMENTATORS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWED BY LENGTHY DISCUSSION SESSION WITH PERFORMERS. SESSION RESULTED IN TV COVERAGE BY ALL TAIPEI STATIONS SAME EVENING AND FAVORABLE COMMENTARY BY MOST NEWSPAPERS FOLLOWING DAY. TWO EVENING PERFORMANCES PROVED OVERWHELMINGLY POPULAR, WITH ESTIMATED 600 SHOWING UP FOR EACH PERFORMANCE. SINCE UNCLASSIFIED

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CENTER COULD COMFORTABLY HANDLE MAXIMUM OF 300, MANY HAD TO BE TURNED AWAY AND THE CRUSH DETRACTED FROM THE INTIMATE MODE THIS ART FORM AIMS TO CREATE. POST RATED THE PROGRAM AN OVERALL PLUS BUT IN MORNING AFTER QUARTERBACKING CONCLUDED LESS LAVISH PUBLICITY WOULD HAVE BETTER SUITED OUR OBJECTIVES. CLARKE

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